

Tuvalu

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Statistics on the number of working children under the age of 15 in Tuvalu are unavailable.⁴⁷⁶⁶ Children are reportedly involved in traditional subsistence farming and fishing.⁴⁷⁶⁷

Under Tuvalu's Education for Life program,⁴⁷⁶⁸ education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years and free until the age of 13.⁴⁷⁶⁹ In 2001, the gross primary enrollment rate was 102 percent.⁴⁷⁷⁰ Gross enrollment ratios are based on the number of students formally registered in primary school and therefore do not necessarily reflect actual school attendance. Recent primary school attendance statistics are not available for Tuvalu. Although Tuvalu has achieved almost universal primary education, secondary enrollment rates are much lower.⁴⁷⁷¹

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

Tuvallese law sets the minimum age of employment at 14 years, and a child must be 18 years old to sign a formal work contract.⁴⁷⁷² The law prohibits industrial labor or work on ships by children less than 15 years of age.⁴⁷⁷³

The worst forms of child labor may be prosecuted under different statutes in Tuvalu. The Constitution and the Penal Code prohibit forced labor.⁴⁷⁷⁴ The Penal Code criminalizes the procurement of a girl less than 18 years of age for prostitution.⁴⁷⁷⁵ While the Penal Code does not specifically address trafficking in

⁴⁷⁶⁶ This statistic is not available from the data sources that are used in this report. Please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section of the report for information about sources used. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms, such as the use of children in the illegal drug trade, prostitution, pornography, and trafficking. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section. Such statistics and information may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on the definition of working children and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Data Sources and Definitions" section.

⁴⁷⁶⁷ U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004*, Washington, D.C., February 28, 2005; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41663.htm>.

⁴⁷⁶⁸ Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: United Nations Development Assistance Framework*, United Nations, Suva, Fiji, May 2002, 9; available from http://www.undp.org.fj/documents/UNDAF_TUVALU%20May%202002.doc.

⁴⁷⁶⁹ UNESCO, *Education for All 2000 Assessment: Country Reports- Tuvalu*, [online] 2000 [cited July 28, 2005]; available from <http://www2.unesco.org/wef/countryreports/tuvalu/contents.html>.

⁴⁷⁷⁰ UNESCO Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableView/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51> (Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios, Primary; accessed December 2005). For an explanation of gross primary enrollment rates that are greater than 100 percent, please see the definition of gross primary enrollment rates in the "Data Sources and Definitions" section.

⁴⁷⁷¹ ADB, *Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific: Relevance and Progress*, Manila, March 2003, 50-51; available from http://www.adb.org/documents/books/MDG_Pacific/mdg.pdf#page=48.

⁴⁷⁷² U.S. Department of State, *Country Reports- 2004: Tuvalu*.

⁴⁷⁷³ Ibid.

⁴⁷⁷⁴ *Constitution of Tuvalu*, Article 18, (1978); available from http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Tuvalu_Constitution.html. See also Government of Tuvalu, *Penal Code*, (1978), Article 249 [cited August 15, 2002]; available from http://vanuatu.usp.ac.fj/Paclawmat/Tuvalu_legislation/Consolidation_1978/Tuvalu_Penal_Code.html.

⁴⁷⁷⁵ *Penal Code*, Articles 136, 138-139.

children, the kidnapping or abducting of children is prohibited.⁴⁷⁷⁶ There is no information available on the enforcement of labor laws.

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

UNICEF works with the Ministry of Health, other government agencies, and NGOs to address children's health and youth development.⁴⁷⁷⁸ The EU provides funds for education-related projects,⁴⁷⁷⁹ and AusAID is funding an 8-year project to improve the management and administration of the education system at the primary and secondary levels.⁴⁷⁸⁰

Selected Child Labor Measures Adopted by Governments	
Ratified Convention 138	N/A ⁴⁷⁷⁷
Ratified Convention 182	N/A
ILO-IPEC Member	
National Plan for Children	
National Child Labor Action Plan	
Sector Action Plan	

⁴⁷⁷⁶ Ibid., Articles 131-132, 241-242, 246-247.

⁴⁷⁷⁷ The Government of Tuvalu is not a member of the ILO, and is thus unable to ratify ILO conventions.

⁴⁷⁷⁸ UNICEF, *UNICEF's Programme of Assistance to Pacific Island Countries*, [online] [cited July 28, 2005]; available from http://www.undp.org.fj/un/UNICEF/UNICEF_PIC.htm.

⁴⁷⁷⁹ Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, A 8.

⁴⁷⁸⁰ Australian Agency for International Development, *Country Brief Tuvalu*, AusAID.gov, [online] 2005 [cited July 28, 2005]; available from <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/country.cfm?CountryId=22>. See also Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, *Tuvalu: UN Development Assistance Framework*, A 11.